

AGENDA

Extraordinary Meeting of Council



We're with you

Tuesday, 7 November 2023

Council Chambers

Wingecarribee Shire Council Civic Centre

68 Elizabeth Street, Moss Vale at 3:30 pm

MEETING NOTICE

An Extraordinary Meeting of Wingecarribee Shire Council will be held in Council Chambers at Wingecarribee Shire Council Civic Centre, 68 Elizabeth Street, Moss Vale on Tuesday, 7 November 2023 at 3.30pm.

The Public Forum will commence at 3.00pm, subject to any registered speaker/s to items listed on this Agenda.

Further information and details on the registration process can be found on Council's website, using the following link:

<https://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/Council/Connect-with-Council/Forms-and-Applications/public-forum-application-form>

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Our Mission, Our Vision, Our Values

OUR MISSION

To create and nurture a vibrant and diverse community growing and working in harmony with our urban, agricultural and natural environments

OUR VISION

Leadership: *'An innovative and effective organisation with strong leadership'*

People: *'A vibrant and diverse community living harmoniously, supported by innovative services and effective communication with Council'*

Places: *'Places that are safe, maintained, accessible, sympathetic to the built and natural environment, that supports the needs of the community'*

Environment: *'A community that values and protects the natural environment enhancing its health and diversity'*

Economy: *'A strong local economy that encourages and provides employment, business opportunities and tourism'*

OUR VALUES

Integrity, trust and respect

Responsibility and accountability

Communication and teamwork

Service quality

Council Chambers

Recording and Webcasting of Ordinary and Extraordinary Meetings of Council

This meeting is being recorded and webcast via Council's website and a person's image and/or voice may be publicly broadcast. Attendance at the meeting is to be taken as consent by a person to their image and/or voice being webcast. Any part of the meeting that is held in closed session will not be webcast.

Council requests that everyone in attendance is respectful and uses appropriate language. All speakers should refrain from making any defamatory, discriminatory or offensive comments or releasing any personal information about another individual without their consent. Council accepts no liability for any damage that may result from defamatory, discriminatory or offensive comments made by persons attending meetings – all liability will rest with the individual who made the comments.

The recording will be available for viewing on the internet for 12 months and retained as a Council record. The recording is subject to copyright.

The meeting must not be recorded by others without the prior written consent of Council in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice.

Please ensure that all electronic devices including mobile phones are switched to silent.

The Council Chamber has 24 Hour Video Surveillance.

1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Administrator, Mr Viv May PSM will open the meeting.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

“Wingecarribee Shire Council acknowledges the Gundungurra and Tharawal people as the traditional custodians of this land we now call the Wingecarribee Shire. I pay my respect to Elders both past, present and emerging. I would also like to extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders present here today.”

3 STATEMENT OF ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS

The Administrator is reminded of the obligations conferred on them at the time of their appointment.

The Administrator is to undertake the duties of the office of Administrator in the best interests of the people of the Wingecarribee Shire Council area and are to act faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of your ability and judgement.

The Administrator is committed to the declaration of conflicts of interest in relation to items listed for consideration on the Agenda or which are considered at this meeting, in accordance with the Code of Conduct and Code of Meeting Practice.

4 APOLOGIES

Nil at time of print.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The provisions of Chapter 14 of the Local Government Act 1993 regulate the way in which nominated staff of Council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public trust.

The Act prescribes that where a member of Council (or a Committee of Council) has a direct or indirect financial (pecuniary) interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council (or Committee), that interest and the reasons for declaring such interest must be disclosed as soon as practicable after the start of the meeting.

As members are aware, the provisions of the Local Government Act restrict any member who has declared a pecuniary interest in any matter from participating in the discussions or voting on that matter and further require that the member vacate the Chamber.

Council’s Code of Conduct provides that if members have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, the nature of the conflict must be disclosed. The Code also provides for a number of ways in which a member may manage non pecuniary conflicts of interest.

6 REPORTS

6.1 PROJECT 24 - Contract Negotiation Report - Receival, Processing and Disposal Services for Municipal Waste and Resource Streams

Report Author: Manager Waste and Resource Recovery

Authoriser: Adan Davis, Director Communities and Place

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the Contract negotiation outcome undertaken as part of 'Project 24' for the receival, processing and disposal of municipal waste and resource streams.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT:

- 1. Council receives the confidential Negotiation Report (Negotiation Report) at Attachment 1 regarding the receival, processing and disposal services of municipal waste and resource streams.**

- 2. The Negotiation Report be withheld from access to the media and public as required by Section 11(2) of the Local Government Act 1993 for the following reason:**
 - a. The Report is confidential in accordance with s10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993, under clause 10A(2)(c) - it contains information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.**

- 3. Following the successful negotiation of service agreements in accordance with the resolution of Council in October 2022 and pursuant to s. 178 (3) (e) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021:**
 - a. Council enters into an agreement with Veolia Recycling & Recovery Pty Ltd (ACN 002 902 650) for the following receival, haulage and processing services for municipal waste and resource streams for an initial term of 5 years and 1 month:**
 - i. receival and haulage services for mixed waste,**
 - ii. receival and processing services for bulky waste,**
 - iii. receival and processing services for recycling, and**
 - iv. receival and processing services for garden organics; and**

- b. Council enters into an agreement with Cleanaway Pty Ltd (ACN 000 164 938) for the receipt and disposal services for mixed waste for an initial term of 5 years.**
- 4. The General Manager be authorised to execute the relevant contract documents.**
- 5. Soil Co Pty Ltd is notified as appropriate that their offer was not accepted.**

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Wingecarribee Shire Council, as well as the neighbouring Councils of Camden, Campbelltown City, and Wollondilly Shire (the Councils), provide waste management services to their communities. The disposal and processing of municipal waste and resource streams is managed by the Councils through a service contract. The current disposal and processing service arrangements have been managed through a contract that is due to expire on 31 May 2024.

Campbelltown City Council on behalf of the Councils, invited tenders for the receipt, processing and disposal services through a public tender process in August 2021. The tender period closed on 3 May 2022.

The services requested for Tender RFT T21/13 Receipt, Processing and Disposal Services for Municipal Waste and Resource Streams were for the following waste streams:

- Part A Garbage and bulky clean up waste
- Part B Recycling
- Part C Organics

Conforming Tenders from the following organisations were received by the closing time:

- Cleanaway Pty Ltd (Cleanaway)
- SOILCO Pty Ltd
- SUEZ Recycling and Recovery Pty Ltd (SUEZ)

Note- that during the tendering process SUEZ Recycling and Recovery Pty Ltd (SUEZ) was acquired by VEOLIA Pty Ltd.

A non-conforming tender was received from Bingo Waste Services and was assessed in accordance with the Tender Evaluation Plan.

The Project 24 team consists of a Project Working Group comprising the senior waste management officers, and a Project Control Group (PCG) which contains the Chief Executives or their delegates, from each of the participating Councils.

The key objectives of the tender were to:

- i. ensure that the services are delivered in a manner that is effective, flexible, efficient, economical and sustainable;
- ii. ensure that the services are able to adapt to changes in industry standards, respond to technological advances and reflect community expectations;
- iii. achieve sustainable systems of waste management services;
- iv. to encourage circular economy in the region with regard to end markets for recovered waste materials;
- v. maximise resource recovery and reduce waste to landfill;
- vi. align with the NSW Waste and Sustainable Material Strategy 2041;
- vii. provide cost-effective and value for money services with price certainty for the term; and
- viii. ensure continuity of service provision over the term.

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The Tender Evaluation Report was presented to the Extraordinary Meeting of Council (11 October 2022) where the recommendations to decline all tenders and enter into negotiations with the Nominated Persons was resolved under Resolution MN2022/22.

REPORT

Following the Council resolution to decline to accept tenders and enter into negotiations with Nominated Parties, the Councils developed appropriate protocols and plans to guide the negotiation process.

A Negotiation Protocol was developed in conjunction with the Project Probity Advisor O'Connor Marsden and Associates (OCM), to establish the guiding principles for the negotiation process.

In November 2022, the Councils commenced the negotiation process by inviting the Nominated Persons identified through the tender process as having the most suitable likely solutions for the Councils to enter negotiations.

The Councils conducted the negotiations through a number of methods, including:

- I. establishment of governance arrangements through the formally constituted Project Working Group, together with the Project Control Group in order to identify agreed responsibilities, roles and reporting requirements for the Councils;
- II. settling a negotiation strategy setting the objectives, and documenting all practical arrangements, for the negotiation process;
- III. adopting the negotiation protocol, setting out the processes for all interactions and to guide the negotiations;
- IV. obtaining expert advice as required.

The Councils noted that the offers from Veolia present the most suitable and value-for-money services, together with the mixed waste disposal services offered by Cleanaway. The location of the Veolia Spring Farm facility was central to the Councils' considerations and offered the most suitable solution for the region.

The following options were agreed by the Councils as follows:

- I. Mixed waste to be received at the Spring Farm facility and transferred by Veolia to be disposed of to landfill at Lucas Heights operated by Cleanaway.
- II. Bulky clean up waste to be received at the Spring Farm facility and transferred by Veolia to be processed for resource recovery at a facility in Cecil Hills operated by Brandown Pty Ltd.
- III. Recycling to be received and processed at the Spring Farm facility by Veolia. This arrangement includes the Councils and Veolia sharing the risks on the revenue gained by Veolia for the output commodities such as paper, metals and plastics.
- IV. Garden organics to be received at the Spring Farm facility and transferred by Veolia to be processed by Australian Native Landscapes Pty Ltd from their facility at Badgerys Creek.
- V. The agreements to be for a term of 5 years and 1 month.

Both agreements with Veolia and Cleanaway are proposed to be for an initial term of 5 years and 1 month. The contract term will allow the industry time to respond to the current infrastructure challenges and allow the organics industry to upscale the processing capacity within the Sydney area to transition to FOGO processing and meet the capacity demand in line with the NSW Government's Waste Strategy.

This would also allow the Councils to retender for services after NSW plans for Energy from Waste infrastructure have been further developed, giving industry more certainty.

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The details of the commercial negotiation, including pricing, are provided in the confidential Negotiation Report attached to this report. The Probity Advisors Report for the Project 24 negotiation process is provided at attachment 6.1.2 to this report.

COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION

Community Engagement

No Community Engagement has been undertaken as part of this project.

Internal Communication and Consultation

Council's finance team have aided in modelling the potential impact to the adopted 2023/24 Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) of Council's Domestic Waste Management Fund (DWM) to model potential impacts associated with increased waste service costs the Receiving, Processing and Disposal for Municipal Waste and Resource Streams.

External Communication and Consultation

External Communication and Consultation has been restricted to the Project Working Group, Project Control Group, legal advisors, probity advisors and subject matter experts.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

Environment

There are positive environmental impacts in relation to this report through the increased diversion of waste from landfill. The option for Bulky clean up waste to be processed for resource recovery at a facility in Cecil Hills operated by Brandown Pty Ltd will have a positive 5% improvement on Council's waste diversion performance.

Social

There are no social impacts raised directly in relation to this report.

Broader Economic Implications

There are no broader economic implications in relation to this report.

Culture

There are no cultural issues raised directly in relation to this report.

Governance

The Probity Advisor (OCM) appointed to oversee the original tender process continued to provide probity advice and was involved in the various stages of the negotiations including correspondence, meetings and final contract discussions.

COUNCIL BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The negotiated contract rates for the Receiving, Processing and Disposal Services for Municipal Waste and Resource Streams are significantly higher than the current contract arrangements and are reflective of the current market rates and uncertainty in the waste facility/ resource recovery commodity markets.

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The following are the respective increases for each waste stream:

Mixed Waste (MSW)	66%
Bulky/ Clean up waste	6%
Recycling	137%
Organics	235%

The adopted 2023/24 LTFP has been updated to reforecast the financial capacity of the DWMC to incur the increased disposal and processing costs, in addition to future potential increases as a result of maintaining the bulky waste collection service, increase costs for a new collection contract in June 2026 and the introduction of FOGO in 2029. The reforecast LTFP was developed to minimise the impact on customers by funding the increased costs utilising existing cash reserves and applying a consistent percentage increase in the DWMC in each year of the LTFP.

A 4.00% increase on top of the adopted LTFP indexation for revenue has been applied to each year of the LTFP.

The DWM cash reserve balance is projected to stay above \$2.5 million for the term of the LTFP which is considered adequate.

Reforecast LTFP Assumptions

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2021/32	2032/33
Revenue indexation – adopted LTFP	7.30	3.00	2.50	2.50	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Further indexation – updated LTFP	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Total revenue indexation	7.30	7.00	6.50	6.50	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00

Funding of cost increases

The updated LTFP has been developed to minimise the short-term impact on customers by funding the initial increased costs by utilising existing DWM cash reserves and applying a consistent increase in the DWMC for each year of the LTFP. A 4.00% increase on top of the adopted indexation has been applied to each year of the LTFP which is adequate to not diminish the DWM reserve below acceptable levels. The indexation will be reviewed annually as apart of Council developing its Operational Plan and Budget.

The Domestic Waste Management reserve balance as at 30 June 2023 as per the draft Financial Statements is \$8.076million.

This existing DWM reserve can be utilised to assist in covering the increased costs of waste disposal and collection rather than having a spike in the DWMC for ratepayers in the 2024/25 financial year. This will mean that the DWM slowly diminish from 2024/25 to 2030/31 to a projected reserve balance of \$2.6 million.

From 2031/32 the DWM Fund will be replenished with a projected balance of \$3.4 million at the end of 2032/33.

Operating Result

The Income Statement is shown in **Figure 1**.

After considering the increased waste disposal/collection costs and increase in revenue, the operating performance of the DWM reports deficits for several years to minimise the financial impact to customers. The operating result returns to sustained surpluses from 2031/32. The operating deficits will be offset by the DWM reserve.

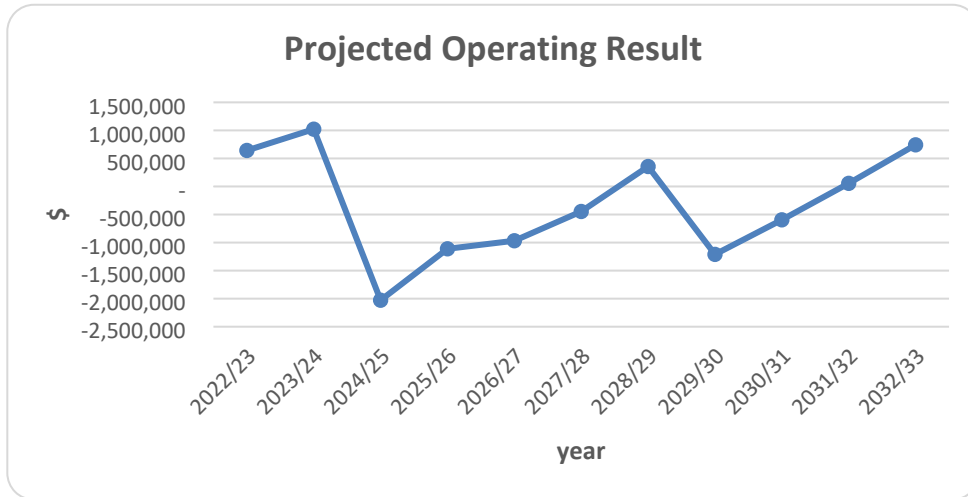


Figure 1

Cash Forecast

The net reserve movements for each year of the LTFP are shown in **Figure 2**.

The graph below illustrates the projected cash balances of the DWM for the next 10 years.



Figure 2

Other cost related impacts

The increase in processing/ disposal costs will be passed through directly to the Resource Recovery Centre users through increases to the 2024/25 fees and charges on a full cost recovery basis as per the Category 1 fee classification.

NSW Environmental Protection Agency Waste Levy

The Waste Levy applies in the regulated area of NSW which comprises the Sydney metropolitan area, the Illawarra and Hunter regions, the central and north coast local government areas to the Queensland border as well as the Blue Mountains, Wingecarribee and Wollondilly local government areas.

The Waste Levy is paid on:

- waste received from the regulated area, if the landfill is located outside the regulated area
- all waste received at an EPA-licensed landfill, if the landfill is located in the regulated area

The application of the Waste Levy to waste generated within the Shire increases costs by \$163.20 per tonne.

RELATED COUNCIL POLICY

The proposed contract arrangement supports Councils' Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy (currently on public exhibition) key direction in improving Resource Recovery from waste streams.

CONCLUSION

A joint tender and negotiation process has been completed to meet the waste and resource receipt, processing and disposal needs of the Wingecarribee community. Based on the outcomes of this process, as detailed in the Negotiation Report, the two recommended contracts with Veolia Recycling and Recovery Pty Ltd and Cleanaway Pty Ltd present the best value to Council for the services over the next 5 years. As such it is recommended that Council enters into (and the General Manager be authorised to execute) these two contracts for the receipt, processing and disposal of municipal waste and resource streams.

ATTACHMENTS

1. P 24 Negotiation Report - CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with s10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993, under clause 10A(2)(c) - information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business. [**6.1.1** - 25 pages]

6.2 Wingecarribee Women Writers - The Charlotte Project

Report Author: Manager Assets

Authoriser: Karin Targa, Director Service and Project Delivery

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for The Charlotte Project, to be delivered by the Wingecarribee Womens Writers, in line with Councils Public Memorials Policy and Guidelines.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT:

- 1. Council approve The Charlotte Project, by Wingecarribee Womens Writers, under the Public Memorial Policy and Guidelines.**
 - 2. Upon consideration of the submissions received during the public consultation of 25 to 31 October 2023 and the existing letters of support, that further consultation through a period of public exhibition is not required.**
-

REPORT

The Wingecarribee Womens Writers have submitted a proposal to Council for the installation of a monument within Berrima Marketplace Park to celebrate the life and contribution of local author Charlotte Atkinson. Landscape drawings of the proposed monument are provided in Attachment 1.

Charlotte Atkinson and her daughter Louisa are two of the most significant women in the history of Australian literature, however there is no monument recognising their achievements and they lie in unmarked graves. It is the desire of the newly formed Wingecarribee Women Writers group to ensure that these two women are accorded their place in the history of the Southern Highlands and the country.

Although the proposal will be subject to a development approval pathway, like all works, the proposed monument also requires a separate approval from Council under Council's Public Memorial Policy and Guidelines.

The purpose of this report is to seek this Public Memorial Policy and Guidelines approval for the proposed monument. The development approval considerations of the proposed works, as described below, will be managed through existing delegation as per standard process.

Public Memorial Policy and Guidelines

Council's Public Memorial Policy and Guidelines provide an extensive list of requirements for proposed monuments within parks and reserves, to which the Wingecarribee Womens Writers group have provided a detailed response to each – Attachment 2.

Review and Recommendation

Upon review of the application and supporting documents provided by Wingecarribee Womens Writers, it has been determined that the Charlotte Project is in alignment with the Public Memorials Policy and Guidelines.

Charlotte Atkinson, and the Atkinson family in general, have sufficient connection to the proposed location. The Atkinsons resided at 'Oldbury' and their property's boundary stretched to the township of Berrima - which was the commercial centre for the Atkinsons at that time and developed rapidly as the major transport route south. The proximity to the children's playground in the park also adds to the symmetry of the story with the installation of Charlotte reading to her children. The location of the installation on the western end of the park reads to the connection with the Atkinson family who owned the corner block of Jellore/Bryan Street. Although the installation is of Charlotte Atkinson, it can also be understood as to represent women living in the heritage properties overlooking Berrima Market Place as she is a reflection of the time period.

The proposal does not conflict with the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) of the reserve. The stated purpose of the CMS is to provide ongoing management guidelines for the vegetation within Market Place Park, as opposed to being a conservation management plan for the park as a whole. The proposal does not impact the existing vegetation of the site and, as per the recommendation of the CMS, does not include the introduction of any more plaques.

The proposed location of the monument is within the grassed area noted within the Berrima Market Place Masterplan to be retained and enhanced for light and passive recreation opportunities. The Charlotte Project aligns with the objectives of this area through enhancing the picnicking and social gathering activities of the space.

With the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee no longer being in existence, endorsement of the artistic intent and merit of the project has instead been provided by Manager Community Life and Libraries and the Arts and Cultural Officer.

Community Consultation

Letters of support for the project have been provided from the Berrima Residents Association, Berrima District Historical and Family Society and Australian Garden History Society - Southern Highlands Branch.

In addition, community consultation has been conducted on the proposal from 25 October 2023 to 31 October 2023. The consultation was conducted through the Wingecarribee website and was promoted through letter box drops to adjacent residents and included within Council's weekly engagement newsletter.

The results of this consultation are provided in Attachment 3, with the following table being a summary:

<i>Submission</i>	<i>Number of Submissions</i>
Supported	194
Neither for nor against	2
Not supported	3

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Upon consideration of the above, it is concluded that The Charlotte Project holds considerable community support and therefore it is recommended that a further period of public exhibition is not required.

Development Approval Pathway

Council's Approval To Carry Out Work on Council Property (ATCOW) process enables community groups and organisations to complete works on Council land and buildings.

The Transport & Infrastructure State Environmental Planning Policy designates many of these types of projects as 'Development Permitted without Consent' and so are to be considered through a Part 5 assessment, as opposed to a Part 4 assessment under the EP&A Act 1979.

A Part 4 assessment is in essence the Development Application (DA) process which is governed by Development Control Plans (DCP) and Local Environmental Plans (LEP). The Part 5 assessment is instead completed through a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) assessment.

Therefore, for works that the Transport & Infrastructure SEPP deem as 'Development Permitted without Consent' no DA is required nor does the DCP or LEP apply.

The development approval pathway for The Charlotte Project is therefore through Clause 2.73 of the Transport and Infrastructure SEPP:

2.73 Development permitted without consent

(3) Any of the following development may be carried out by or on behalf of a public authority without consent on land owned or controlled by the public authority—

(a) development for any of the following purposes—

(v) landscaping, including landscape structures or features (such as art work) and irrigation systems,

The Charlotte Project, for the development approval pathway, will therefore be assessed through an ATCOW application, supported by an REF and Statement of Heritage Impact (SOHI) given the local heritage significance of Berrima Market Place Park. The ATCOW will be reviewed, and a determination made, in accordance with existing delegations of Council officers.

COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION

Community Engagement

Letters of support for the project have been provided from the Berrima Residents Association, Berrima District Historical and Family Society and Australian Garden History Society - Southern Highlands Branch.

In addition, community consultation has been conducted on the proposal from 24 October 2023 to 31 October 2023. The consultation was conducted through the Your Say Wingecarribee website and was promoted through letter box drops to adjacent residents, social media and the Berrima Residents Association.

Internal Communication and Consultation

Manager Community Life and Libraries

Manager Development Assessment and Compliance

External Communication and Consultation

Wingecarribee Womens Writers

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

Environment

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement that the monument aligns with the requirements of the Public Memorial Policy and Guidelines – of which there are no environmental considerations or constraints noted. The environmental and heritage considerations are part of the development approval pathway, of which is not the purpose of this report.

Social

It is estimated that across Australia, less than four percent of public statues are of women. There are more statues of farmyard animals than there are of women. The Charlotte Project will help correct this trend and will support the fundamentally change this statistic and will become the first monument to recognise the important contribution of a pioneering woman to the life and community of the Southern Highlands.

Broader Economic Implications

The Charlotte Project will further enhance the appeal and tourism appeal of Berrima, and so will only help to further support the local businesses within the village.

Culture

There are no cultural issues in relation to this report.

Governance

It is deemed that the Charlotte Project aligns with the requirements of the Public Memorials Policy and Guidelines.

COUNCIL BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budgetary implications of this proposal. Construction and installation of the Charlotte Project is to be fully funded by the Wingecarribee Womens Writers group. And as per the Public Memorials Guidelines, should the memorial be damaged, lost or vandalised the subsequent repair and replacement costs will remain the responsibility of the applicant.

RELATED COUNCIL POLICY

Public Memorial Policy and Guidelines

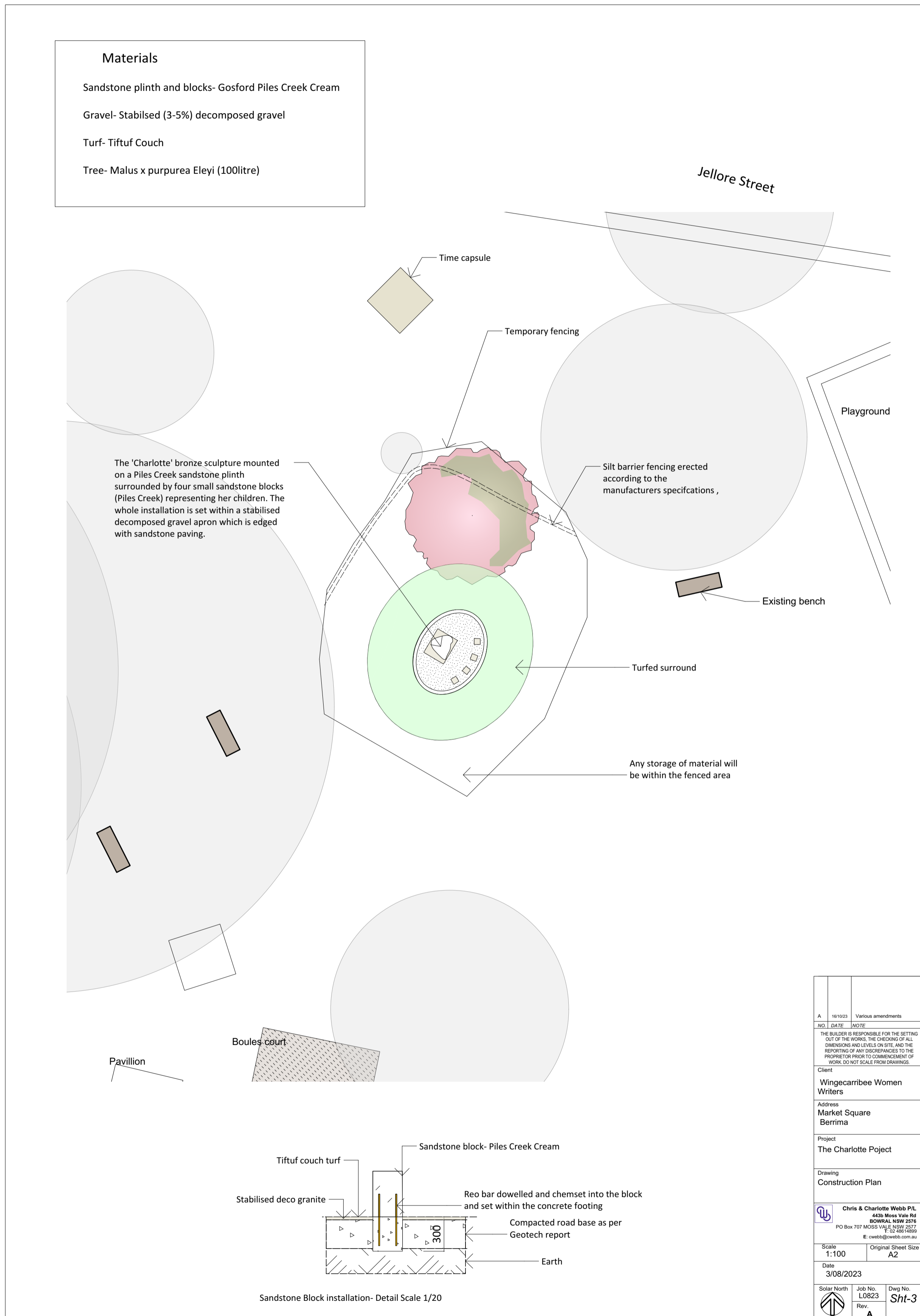
CONCLUSION

Wingecarribee Womens Writers have submitted an application for a proposed monument within Berrima Marketplace Park entitled 'The Charlotte Project'. The Charlotte Project seeks to celebrate the life and contribution of Charlotte Atkinson and it is deemed that the proposal aligns with Council's Public Memorial Policy and Guidelines.

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ATTACHMENTS

1. The Charlotte Project - Landscape Drawing [**6.2.1** - 2 pages]
2. Wingecarribee Womens Writers - Charlotte Project Application (with Letters of Support) - Redacted [**6.2.2** - 12 pages]
3. Community Consultation Submissions - incl emails - Redacted [**6.2.3** - 12 pages]

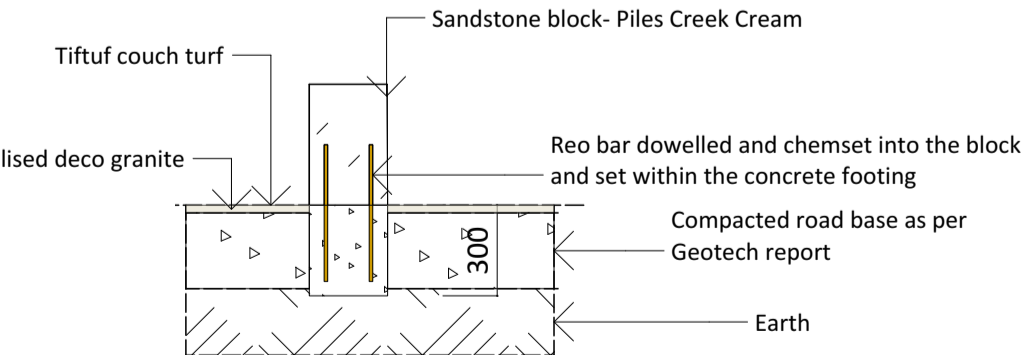


Materials

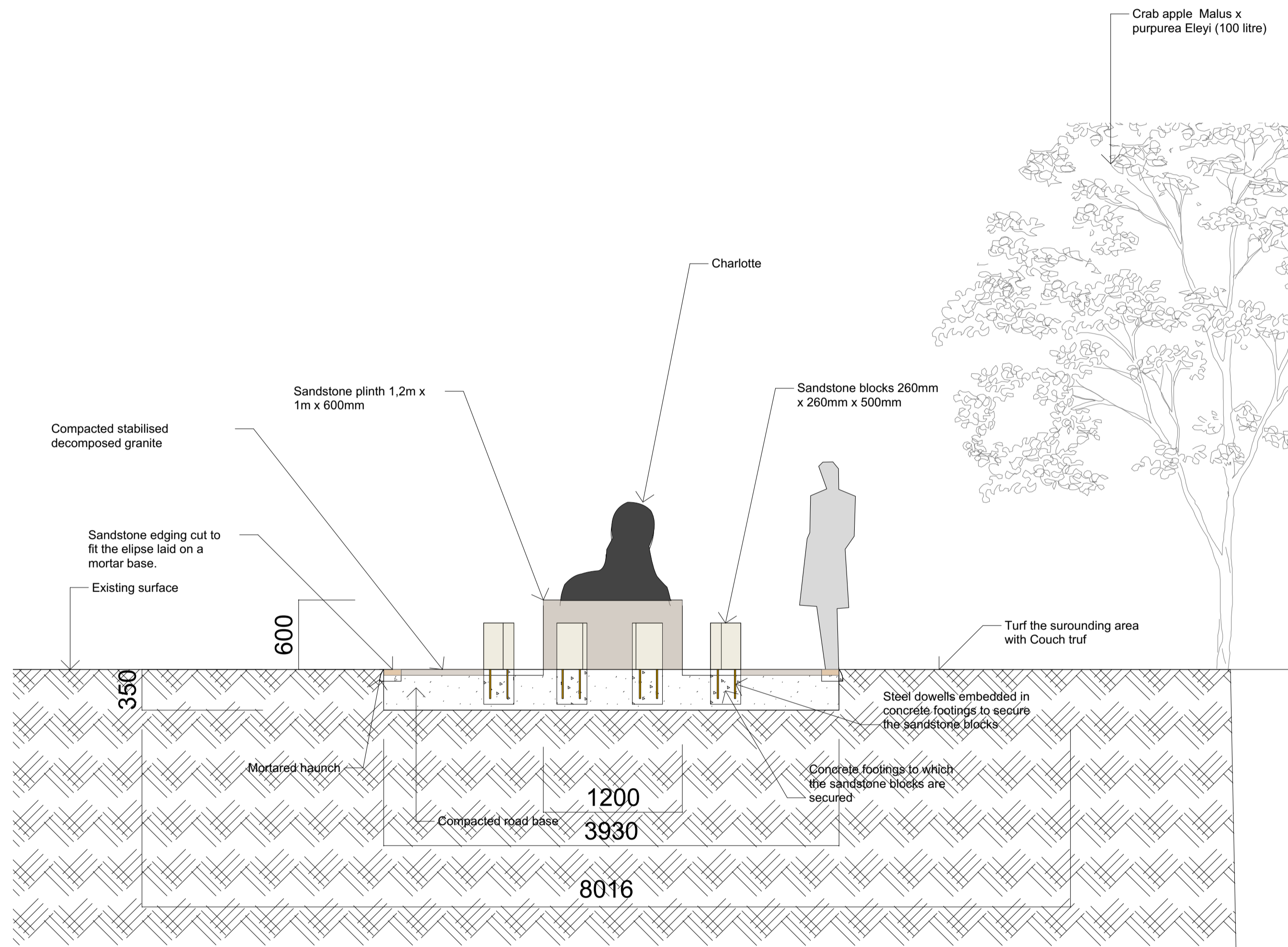
- Sandstone plinth and blocks- Gosford Piles Creek Cream
- Gravel- Stabilised (3-5%) decomposed gravel
- Turf- Tiftuf Couch
- Tree- Malus x purpurea Eleyi (100litre)

The 'Charlotte' bronze sculpture mounted on a Piles Creek sandstone plinth surrounded by four small sandstone blocks (Piles Creek) representing her children. The whole installation is set within a stabilised decomposed gravel apron which is edged with sandstone paving.

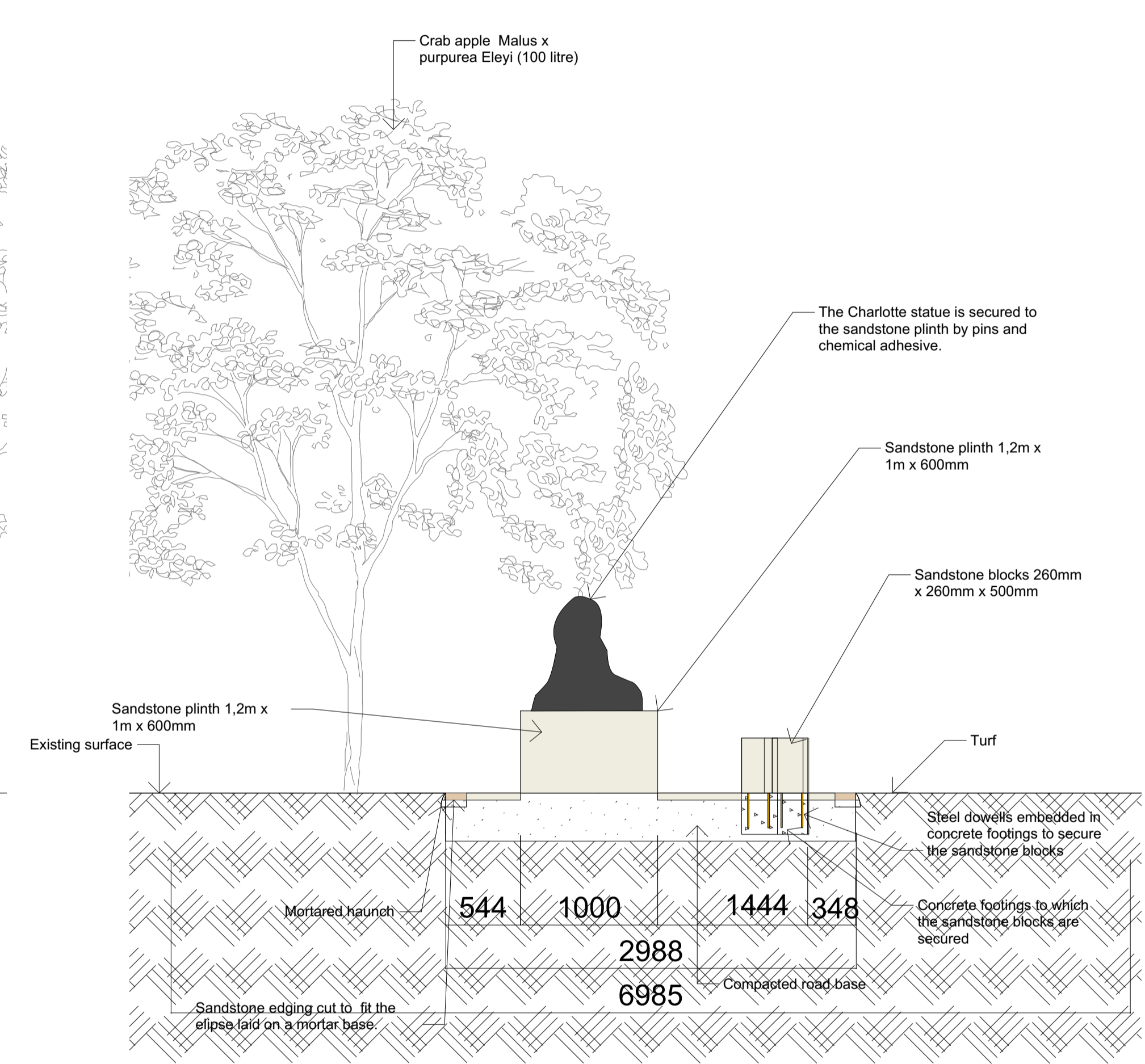
A	16/10/23	Various amendments
NO.	DATE	NOTE
<p>THE BUILDER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SETTING OUT OF THE WORKS, THE CHECKING OF ALL DIMENSIONS AND LEVELS ON SITE, AND THE REPORTING OF ANY DISCREPANCIES TO THE PROPRIETOR PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF WORK. DO NOT SCALE FROM DRAWINGS.</p>		
Client		
Wingecaribbee Women Writers		
Address		
Market Square Berrima		
Project		
The Charlotte Project		
Drawing		
Construction Plan		
<p>Chris & Charlotte Webb P/L 443b Moss Vale Rd BOWRAL NSW 2576 PO Box 707 MOSS VALE NSW 2577 T: 02 456 14999 E: cwebb@ccwebb.com.au</p>		
Scale	1:100	Original Sheet Size
Date	3/08/2023	A2
Solar North	Job No.	Dwg No.
	L0823	Sht-3
	Rev.	A



Sandstone Block installation- Detail Scale 1/20



Eastern Face Section/Elevation Scale 1/25



Southern Face Section/Elevation Scale 1/25

NO.	DATE	NOTE
<small>THE DESIGNER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SETTING OUT OF THE WORK, THE CHECKING OF ALL DIMENSIONS AND LEVELS ON SITE, AND THE REPORTING OF ANY DISCREPANCIES TO THE PROJECTOR PRIOR TO COMMENCING ANY WORK. DO NOT SCALE FROM DRAWINGS.</small>		
Client		
Wingecarribee Women Writers		
Address		
Market Place Berrima		
Project		
The Charlotte Project		
Drawing		
Sections/elevations		
 Chris & Charlotte Webb P/L 4/16 Moss Vale Rd BOWRAL NSW 2576 PO Box 700 MOSS VALE NSW 2577 E: cwebb@cwwebb.com.au		
Scale	Original Sheet Size	
1:50	A1	
Date		
7/08/2023		
Solar North	Job No.	Dwg No.
	L0823	Sht-2
Rev.		

**AGENDA OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2023**

Lynn Watson

Chair – Wingecarribee Women Writers – Charlotte Project

29 June 2022

Lisa Miscamble
General Manager
Wingecarribee Shire Council
PO Box 141
MOSS VALE NSW 2577

RE: Proposed Monument to Honour Charlotte Atkinson – The Market Place, Berrima

I am delighted to write to Council on behalf of the Wingecarribee Women Writers (WWW) with this very exciting community project and to seek Council's endorsement for the project to proceed. This project is proposed under the Council's Public Memorials Policy and Guidelines as approved by Council on 28 October 2020.

Before I address how the project is consistent with Council's Public Memorials Policy and Guidelines, I would like to provide some background and context to demonstrate the project's relevance to the Shire.

Charlotte Atkinson and her daughter Louisa are two of the most significant women in the history of Australian literature and yet there is no monument recognising their achievements and they lie in unmarked graves. The newly formed Wingecarribee Women Writers (WWW) group wants to ensure these two remarkable women are accorded their rightful place in the history of the Southern Highlands and the country.

We seek Council approval for a bronze statue of Charlotte Atkinson and her four children, including Louisa, to be placed in The Market Place Berrima near the new children's playground. It will be a low statue and Charlotte will be depicted sitting on the ground with her four children around her reading a book or sketching. The statue will most likely be bordered by a small sandstone edge.

The Writers group is raising money to fund plaques for Charlotte and Louisa's graves in the All-Saints Graveyard, Sutton Forest and to erect the sculpture which we envisage as a centrepiece in The Market Place Berrima.

Further information detailing the significant achievements of Charlotte Atkinson and her daughter Louisa as well as their rich historical association with the Southern Highlands is provided on page 6 of this document.

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Public Memorials Policy and Guideline

Under Council's adopted Public Memorials Policy and Guideline, a section is dedicated to Monuments, Statues and other Memorials. The following seeks to satisfy each of the guideline requirements:

Any new large memorial must be demonstrated to be of lasting value to the community for social, cultural, historical, educational or aesthetic reasons, and must add to the existing community amenity of the proposed location within the context of the current and future use of the area. Monuments, statues and other memorials will only be considered for a person who is deceased.

Response

Charlotte Atkinson died in 1867 and her daughter Louisa, just five years later in 1872. The proposed bronze sculpture will depict the author of Australia's first children's book engaging her own children in reading and sketching. The statue and its placement near the Children's Playground and not far from the Berrima District Museum and Story Centre will complement the social, cultural, educational, and historic nature of the area. It's envisaged that children will be able to engage closely with the monument. In addition, the design and quality of the statue will become one of the focal points of the park and surrounding space. It will draw both passing visitors and locals and encourage them to broaden their knowledge about the history of the area and the pivotal role played by pioneering women.

Subjects for a large memorial will only be considered appropriate if they meet one or more of the following criteria: the subject is or was an individual or association that has contributed significantly to the cultural or social aspects of the development of the region, including; more than 20 years dedicated to the development of the region; or more than 20 years not-for-profit work on a community or social cause, such as sports, education, arts, culture, or providing assistance to the vulnerable; or the large memorial commemorates a significant anniversary of an event unique to the region's history and development.

Response

The Atkinson family had a long association with the Berrima area and the Southern Highlands. James Atkinson built the house known as Oldbury Farm as his wedding gift to Charlotte in 1828. It still stands today on Oldbury Road between Sutton Forest and Berrima and is heritage listed as one of the oldest existing examples of a Colonial Georgian country house on the Australian mainland. Charlotte's contribution to the local community was immense. She oversaw the accommodation and care of convicts and other workers on the huge property. She tended the sick among the local indigenous population and taught both her own and local children. The Atkinsons also sponsored the family members of some convicts to join them in the colony. Both Charlotte and her daughter spent hours exploring the unique flora and fauna and documenting their botanical discoveries through sketches and drawings. These became integral contributions to the building of knowledge about the Colony's plants and animals.

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In addition, the subject of the memorial must have a strong connection to the proposed site of the memorial. Large memorials for political or religious figures will only be considered if that person has also contributed to the community outside of their political or religious life, in accordance with the criteria outlined above.

Response

As outlined above, the Atkinsons resided at 'Oldbury' and their property's boundary stretched as far as the area which became the town of Berrima in 1831. After the death of her husband, Charlotte herself would ride out with the farm manager to inspect the far reaches of the property and it was at the river near Berrima that she and her farm manager were attacked by the infamous bushranger and serial killer, John Lynch. Charlotte and her children lived in the area for many years and their connection to the history of Berrima and surrounds is indisputable.

Approval will only be granted for a new large memorial if it is consistent with Council's master plan or strategic development framework for the site. Any proposal for a large memorial that may be considered to be an artistic work must be endorsed by Council's Arts and Culture Advisory Committee.

Response

We acknowledge that The Market Place Berrima is a heritage listed site under Wingecarribee LEP 2010. We also understand Council several years ago adopted a masterplan for The Market Place. We believe the placing of a monument to Charlotte Atkinson in the park is entirely consistent with the Park's Masterplan and will enhance the heritage significance of the park. Furthermore, it will help place Wingecarribee Council at the forefront of a global movement of commemorative justice for women - to give women their rightful recognition in terms of monuments and statues. It will become the first monument to recognise the important contribution of a pioneering woman to the life and community of the Southern Highlands.

Any request for a large memorial should include evidence of community consultation on the memorial's purpose, location and design, in the form of at least three letters of support from relevant or affected interest groups and/or organisations. Council reserves the right to undertake further consultation or direct the applicant to undertake further consultation if it is considered necessary.

Response

WWW has engaged with local community groups including the Berrima District Historical and Family History Society, Berrima Residents Association and surrounding property owners who have all supported the project and copies of their letters of support are attached.

Applicants for a large memorial must meet all costs associated with the design, manufacture and installation of the memorial. Council will oversee the installation of any large memorial and may require specialist contractors to advise on and/or install the memorial. Should the memorial be damaged, lost or vandalised, repair and replacement costs would remain the responsibility of the applicant.

Response

WWW has already embarked on an extensive fundraising drive. We plan on holding a fundraising cocktail party as part of the Southern Highlands Writers Festival on 15 October 2022, as part of the

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10-year anniversary of the festival and the 10-year anniversary of the Stella Prize for Women's Literature. It's anticipated this event will raise significant funds for the project.

We expect to have the funds to order the memorial plaques for the graveyard by October, with installation by early December to coincide with the 181st anniversary of Charlotte's book being published. The cocktail party will be the official launch of the fundraising efforts and for this reason we are hopeful of Council approval prior to this launch date. We are very confident of receiving the necessary funds through donations for the design, casting and installation of the monument.

No new memorial will be considered which commemorates a person, event or occasion that is already the subject of a memorial in the Wingecarribee Shire unless there are exceptional circumstances, such as the commemoration of people or events with immense national or international significance.

Response

As detailed above, there is no monument in existence dedicated to Charlotte and Louisa Atkinson. In fact, there are no monuments to actual women in the Wingecarribee Shire at all. It is noted that two monuments exist in the Shire dedicated to one male resident and one fictional character associated with the Southern Highlands. The monuments in Glebe Park Bowral are Sir Donald Bradman and the fictional character, Mary Poppins. Berrima has no existing person related monument.

To provide a context of the proposed location and scale of the monument, the following photo is provided which shows a figure of a person sitting on the grass.



It is our great hope that Council accepts the detailed justifications for the installation of the monument and gives approval for the project. As mentioned previously, we would like to formally announce the project at the upcoming Writers Festival Event on 15 October 2022 so we are hoping for Council approval prior to this date.

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We would welcome the opportunity to meet with yourself and staff to further elaborate on the project. I will be in contact with Amy Murray in the next few days and hopefully make an appointment to meet you. I can be contacted on 0417 433 383 or via email lynnwatson88@bigpond.com.

We thank you for your review of this matter. We trust Council sees the enormous historical and cultural significance of this project and understands the potential to be part of an exciting and growing movement to ensure women are recognised with monuments of their own.

Yours Sincerely

Lynn Watson

Chair - Wingecarribee Women Writers, 'The Charlotte Project'

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Charlotte Waring Atkinson – Australia’s first children’s author

According to an article in the Sydney Morning Herald, Charlotte Waring Atkinson (1796-1867) was “one of the most accomplished women of her era.” She was a fiercely independent, well-educated woman; an early feminist and a loving mother with progressive views on girls’ education who brought her daughters up to be some of the finest scholars, artists and writers in the colony, a naturalist, ethnographer, and the first Australian children’s author.

She emigrated to Australia in 1826 after being employed as a governess by Maria and Hannibal Macarthur. On the voyage she met agriculturist James Atkinson and they were married a year later and settled at ‘Oldbury’ in Sutton Forest which is the earliest surviving Colonial Building in Wingecarribee Shire. Charlotte was a pioneer in the fight for women’s legal rights, defending a landmark case in the Supreme Court of NSW to retain custody of her own children, after suffering domestic violence at the hands of her second husband. Charlotte also survived a brutal attack by bushranger and serial murderer John Lynch.

Caroline Louisa Atkinson - our first female Australian born journalist and novelist

Educated at home by her mother Charlotte, Louisa (1834-1872) was a talented artist, botanist, zoologist, environmentalist, and writer. She was the first Australian born female journalist and female novelist. Louisa is notable for her contribution to the knowledge of natural history and botany, collecting and sketching numerous specimens, several previously unknown, and sending plants to eminent botanists such as William Woolls and Ferdinand Mueller. There are several ferns named after her.

Historical Relevance

The Atkinson family were pioneer farmers in the Southern Highlands, with James Atkinson, receiving one of the earliest land grants in the district at Oldbury, near Sutton Forest, which he began farming in about 1822. Charlotte moved to Oldbury after their marriage in 1827. Both Charlotte and Louisa wrote extensively about First Nation people, and their unique culture. They were early feminists, with Charlotte fighting for her right to raise her own children and exert her financial independence, in the landmark legal case which benefited women throughout the British Empire. Louisa frequently wrote about independent, working women and was the subject of colonial gossip for wearing trousers on her botanical jaunts. Charlotte and Louisa’s unmarked grave is at All Saints, Sutton Forest.

Literary Importance

Charlotte Waring Atkinson was the first Australian children’s author, credited with writing several books. In 1841, Charlotte wrote *A Mother’s Offering to Her Children by a Lady Long Resident in NSW*. It was the first children’s book published in Australia, and the first to feature Australian children, landscapes, history, flora and fauna, and the lives of its First Nation people. The book gives a rare insight into colonial domestic life, and the unique role played by mothers in educating their children. *A Mother’s Offering* is considered so important that a first edition copy recently sold for \$70,000.

Louisa Atkinson was the first female Australian-born novelist, journalist and botanist. Her early articles and drawings were published at the age of 19, in *The Illustrated Sydney News*, and she continued to write a long running series of articles *A Voice from the Country*, for the *Sydney Morning Herald*, as well

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as articles for *the Sydney Mail* and *The Horticultural Magazine*. Many of these were about the importance of environmental protection and several focused on Indigenous Australian culture and artefacts. Louisa's first novel, *Gertrude the Emigrant*, was published in 1857 when she was aged 23. This was followed by several novels including *Cowanda*, and *Debatable Ground*.



BERRIMA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

preserving Berrima's architectural heritage and natural environment

PO BOX 7199 BERRIMA 2577 / SECRETARY@BRA.ORG.AU / WWW.BRA.ORG.AU [REDACTED]

Lynn Watson
[REDACTED]

Dear Lynn,

Charlotte Atkinson Statue, Berrima Marketplace, Berrima

Thank you for presenting to the Association's June 2022 general meeting the proposal to erect a statue in the Berrima Marketplace, near the children's playground, to commemorate Charlotte Atkinson of Oldbury, in the former Berrima District.

The proposal was enthusiastically received by the membership and subsequently discussed in detail by the Association's Executive Committee, which resolved to write to you to express our support for the proposal.

As Charlotte and her four children are important historical women who contributed significantly to Australia's early literary and botanical history, it is fitting that they be represented by a group sculpture. As Berrima was the local settlement for Oldbury Farm in the 1830s and 1840s, it is only fitting to locate the statue in Berrima. Indeed, the presence of the popular children's playground in the historic Berrima Marketplace is an ideal place to place the statue in the village.

The Association commends you and your team for launching this ambitious project. Please keep us informed of progress as the project develops.


Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
President
27 June 2022

**AGENDA OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
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R. C. (Bud) Townsing


16 June 2022

Lynn Watson
Wingecarribee Women Writers Group

Dear Lynn,

Wingecarribee Women Writers: The Charlotte and Louisa Project

I am a member of the Berrima District Historical & Family History Society (BDHS) and the Australian Garden History Society Southern Highlands Branch (AGHS-SHB).

Working with BDHS and AGHS-SHB I recently curated the current exhibition, *Gardens and Landscapes of the Southern Highlands Now and Then*, at the Berrima District Museum at 1a Market Place Berrima.

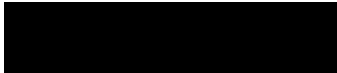
Part of the exhibition is about Charlotte Atkinson, and her daughter Louisa as they are significant figures in the history of Australian Literature, Australian botanical art plus their connection to the heritage listed nearby 1828 Oldbury Farm.

I understand the Wingecarribee Women Writers Group is seeking to erect a sculpture depicting Charlotte and her children. The proposed location is a short distance from the Museum across the road near the children's playground.

I consider the sculpture will be a focal point and will encourage family groups to come to the Museum to learn more about Charlotte and Louisa.

I support the Wingecarribee Women Writers Group in their endeavours to erect the proposed sculpture.

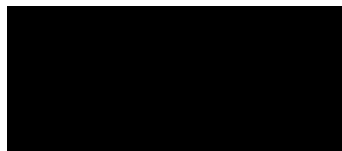
Yours sincerely



Bud Townsing

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**Linda Emery
History - Research**



29 June 2022

Ms Lisa Miscamble
General Manager
Wingecarribee Shire Council
Elizabeth Street
MOSS VALE NSW 2577

Dear Ms Miscamble,

I am writing in support of the Wingecarribee Women Writers project to erect a bronze statue in Berrima to acknowledge the life and work of Charlotte Atkinson and her daughter Louisa, two women who made a significant contribution to the early history of our area and to the literary world of their time.

Charlotte settled with her husband James Atkinson at Oldbury, Sutton Forest in 1826 and after his death in 1834 was vitally involved in the running of the property. She was well educated and a talented artist and is acknowledged as the first Australian children's author with the publication of *A Mother's Offering to her Children* in 1841. Charlotte was an independent and brave woman who stood against convention to retain custody of her children after her husband died.

Her youngest child, Louisa, inherited her mother's artistic and literary talents, and is much celebrated as a botanist, artist, novelist and journalist, with several books having been written about her. The achievements of Charlotte and Louisa have long been recognised by local historians and both women were included when the Berrima District Historical Society honoured significant women of the Southern Highlands in a Bicentennial project in 1988. As a historian, my own research into the Atkinson family over many years has given me a deep knowledge of the part they played in this early period, including their interest in and understanding of the local Indigenous people with whom they had excellent relations.

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Charlotte and Louisa Atkinson are both buried at All Saints Cemetery, Sutton Forest although the graves are currently unmarked. Wingecarribee Women Writers, as well as raising funds for the statue, aim to erect a memorial plaque in the cemetery.

I believe this to be not only a worthy project but the statue and interpretive panel will add to the experience of visitors to Berrima and their knowledge of women's history in early New South Wales. I commend the project and urge Wingecarribee Shire Council to support it.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Linda Emery.

Linda Emery

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From: Ruth Bailey [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 June 2022 8:27 AM
To: Lynn [REDACTED]
Subject: Support for Caroline Atkinson Statue in the Berrima Children's Park

Dear Lynn,

Formed in 1980, the Australian Garden History Society brings together people from diverse backgrounds united by an appreciation of and concern for our parks, gardens and cultural landscapes as part of Australia's heritage. The Society promotes knowledge of historic gardens, significant landscapes and research into their history. It aims to examine gardens and gardening in their widest social, historic, literary, artistic and scientific context.

As the Chair of the AGHS-Southern Highlands Branch I would like to support the efforts of the Wingecarribee Women Writers group to erect a sculpture featuring Charlotte Atkinson and her daughter Louisa in the Berrima Children's Park as they embody historical accomplishment not shared by many early settlers.

Charlotte Waring Atkinson was an educated woman who arrived from England in the early 1800s. She helped manage Oldbury Farm, after the death of her husband, James Atkinson, in a very remote area at the time. Oldbury has been restored to its former glory and shows us all how challenging an environment this must have been 200 years ago. She was an early feminist and educated her daughters to be some of the finest scholars, artists and writers in the colony. Charlotte herself was a pioneer in the fight for women's legal rights and was Australia's first children's author.

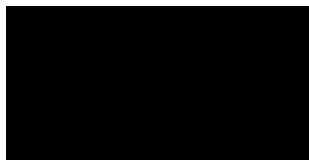
Her daughter Louisa Atkinson under her mother's tutelage became a talented artist, botanist, zoologist, environmentalist and writer. Louisa was the first Australian born female journalist and novelist. While she was well known for her fiction during her lifetime, her long-term significance rests on her botanical work. She collected specimens extensively for Rev. Dr. William Woolls, a well-known teacher and amateur botanist, and Ferdinand von Mueller. Mueller's work was aided by many amateur naturalists in Australia, but Louisa's contribution was noted "for the quality of its information, its scholarly commitment, its enthusiasm and persistence over time, its geographical range, its local depth, its robustness and liveliness of descriptive record, its sense of primary exploration, its sheer inventiveness".

These two women are regarded by many scholars as two of the most influential women of their era and warrant recognition in an area so closely related to their origins in Australia. Such role models may have the ability to influence young lives in our community today. So locating a statue of these women in the Berrima Children's Park will give them the recognition they deserve for having such an impact on not only the Wingecarribee Shire but also Australia wide.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Bailey

Ruth Bailey PhD
Chair - Australian Garden History Society - Southern Highlands Branch



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First Initial	Surname	Post Code	Do you support the proposed works to build a statue at Berrima Marketplace Park to celebrate the life and contribution of the local Author, Charlotte Atkinson. :	Any further comments:
D	Bsrker	2575	Neither for nor against	SheCharlotte is no longer in an unmarked grave. She is buried in marked a grave in the cemetery at Sutton Forest. Cannot understand why Berrima.
P	Skinner	2577	Neither for nor against	A worth project
J	Brophy		No	See email
D	Prior		No	See email
D	Richards	2576	No	The cost of a bronze statue could be better put to a writers hub. Hasn't council got an old house or meeting room that could be dedicated to Australian writers for mentoring, providing resources and writer-in-residence? This could be an on-going legacy to celebrate the work and life of Charlotte Atkinson. Another lifeless statue is just that. Whereas fostering the highlands as a centre for writing and ideas is a great investment in the intellectual and our cultural life & a National drawcard.
	No Name Provided		Yes	What a great tourist attraction for Berrima
	No Name Provided		Yes	The statue of Charlotte Atkinson will be a wonderful addition to the history of Berrima and a statue of an Australian woman will contribute to redressing the imbalance of monuments which commemorate women which stands at about 4 percent. Wholly support this project.
	No Name Provided		Yes	I believe this is an important monument to represent a female author that has had such an impact on Australian literature.
	No Name Provided		Yes	I think this is a wonderful element to add to the area. It would give a beautiful focus to this park which we visit all the time. Our children would love to interact with the statue and it's perfect being near the playground. It's also nice having tribute paid to a female as these statues are not a prominent.
	No Name Provided		Yes	It will be wonderful to see a monument to a woman of such significance to the area - we need more sculptures recognising women!
	No Name Provided		Yes	I fully support the proposal to celebrate a local female author. It's a no-brainer for tourism and chance to promote community achievements. I look forward to seeing the statue in all of its glory!
	No Name Provided		Yes	It would be a great addition to commemorate such a significant, female and local writer.
	No Name Provided		Yes	The statue will be an adornment to Berrima and a reminder of its Georgian heritage
	No Name Provided		Yes	Such a brilliant & important project!
	No Name Provided		Yes	It's a wonderful community supported project
	No Name Provided		Yes	Berrima marketplace will benefit from the presence of a sculpture of Charlotte Atkinson, an historical figure in the Berrima District.
	No Name Provided		Yes	This monument recognising Charlotte Atkinson's remarkable life as our first children's book author, a trailblazer in women's education and a pioneer in the fight for women's legal rights, still studied in law schools today is an important historical story and one that is important to the Highlands community and all visitors to Berrima Market Place. The monument is beautiful, not intrusive and not elevated. It has been designed so that children in particular can learn Charlotte's story.
	No Name Provided		Yes	This statue would be a beautiful addition to the park and recognition of a colonial woman in the colonial village of Berrima
	No Name Provided		Yes	A wonderful recognition of a colonial women. The statue is tasteful, not effusively large and will suit the context of the village. The decision to commission the statement was well communicated and support by the village.
	No Name Provided		Yes	I live at 24 Jellore Street Berrima, and the statue site is across the road where the park is in constant use by families and children. The statue will add to the experience of park users both locals and visitors to Berrima while telling a story of early colonial Australia seldom heard.
	No Name Provided		Yes	Very worthy project
E	Adams	2576	Yes	This will be a beautiful addition to our community!
V	Adlide OAM	2576	Yes	Sounds like an excellent project.
L	Ainsworth	2576	Yes	I fully support the proposal for this statue, there are far too few statues of women in this country.
T	Allen	2576	Yes	This is a very worthwhile project and recognises an early writer in our area.
J	Anderson	2508	Yes	We believe this to be a significant and beautiful addition to the park. It will also educate children to overlooked at historical figures that deserve to be included in the rich tapestry of the area!
K	Anderson	2579	Yes	Such an important memorial in honour of an incredible person
H	Anderson-Reid	2577	Yes	I can't wait to see this beautiful statue in situ.
J	Archer	2577	Yes	No further comments
S	Balderstone	2577	Yes	Superb idea - a great heritage item - and, perfect place for it as it is right near the original (when Berrima started) Atkinson holding in Bryan Street; can be shown to schoolchildren and public to teach the heritage; is near museum where Atkinson's feature too. Dozens and dozens of locals have donated for the statue and it has huge local support. I live at 26 Jellore Street Berrima, opposite where it is planned to be, and feel it will, importantly, add to the heritage of Berrima.
P	Barge	2577	Yes	It's important for our community
A	Barnaby	2576	Yes	So important for their names & contributions to Australian literature be known & recognised in our community, Australia & world wide
M	Barnes		Yes	It would be nice to see a female statue
S	Barnett	2576	Yes	It is important to remember Charlotte Atkinson
M	Barron	2009	Yes	This project is important as it honours the achievements of a significant local woman in the area, and also addresses the stark imbalance in statues and other memorials to women. In recognising and honouring Charlotte Atkinson the Council will be leading the way in celebrating its local history.
S	Barry	2575	Yes	Yes
A	Beaumont	2576	Yes	As an historian based in the Southern Highlands, as well as a writer, I am totally in favour of this project. It will be a valuable asset to the area and highlight the importance of Charlotte and Louisa Atkinson, not only to the history of the southern Highlands but to the women's history and Australian literature.
A	Bennett	2577	Yes	Let's celebrate more women and their achievements.
L	Bennett	2765	Yes	NA
M	Besestri	2577	Yes	I fully support the proposal to have a statue of Charlotte Atkinson in the park (near my place). It's a great idea. It will be good for Berrima, as she is an important part of our Heritage - as it is shown in the museum. And having the monument near the playground and in that corner of the park is perfect, as children, and schoolchildren coming to the park, can be shown it and told about the history. Lots of locals have donated, and it has very big local support. 20-22 Jellore Street Berrima.
D	Blackah		Yes	Totally in favour of this great project
A	Blaxland	2575	Yes	I am delighted to support the placing of monument to Charlotte Atkinson at Berrima. Charlotte was a pioneer of Australian literature and of women's rights in an era before they were recognised. This statue will honour her place in Australia's history.
K	Blight		Yes	I fully support the statue as she overcame extraordinary circumstances and deserves to be recognised. So few women are acknowledged for their achievements and I think that she is and should be honoured with public recognition.
J	Bott AO	2576	Yes	I think this is an important project and should be enthusiastically supported by the Council. It is important because it acknowledges our local history, it recognises an outstanding woman, author and reformist who has not been appreciated and acknowledged publicly. This focus on Charlotte Atkinson should be seen, in my opinion, as a strength and an attraction for both the local community and tourists to one of the many rich threads of life in the Southern Highlands.
j	bowe		Yes	This statue is a positive and appropriate step on a journey to a full community art journey under the direction of Council. As an MV Evening CWA member we have been supporting this project. Community Art acknowledges the strength of a diverse community, fosters community pride and a sense of belonging. Can Council to establish a Community Art Committee, to establish guidelines, and gather funding.
N	Bowra	2577	Yes	No further comments
A	Brear	2577	Yes	An important part of local history that shouldn't be forgotten.
G	Brennan	2578	Yes	The perfect place for one of our most celebrated author's.
J	Brennan	2577	Yes	Worthwhile project

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First Initial	Surname	Post Code	Do you support the proposed works to build a statue at Berrima Marketplace Park to celebrate the life and contribution of the local Author, Charlotte Atkinson. :	Any further comments:
J	Brophy	2577	Yes	There are many reasons why this project should go ahead in Market Place adjacent to the children's playground Berrima Market Place. Firstly it is a figure of a woman. Secondly she was a pioneer to this region. Thirdly she was a mother who fought for the protection of her children.
C	Brown	2577	Yes	This is a great local story that must be told and it reflects well in Council to do so. Not enough female statues in Aust and let's have the Highlands lead the way. cb
N	Brown	2575	Yes	Charlotte Atkinson was an important figure in the Berrima district in the early days of the settlement. She suffered adversely but went on to become a distinguished author of children's books. Julie Hasele-Reilly is an established sculptor who has made the Highlands her home. Children love playing in the park and the sculpture of the writer of the first Australian children's book seems highly appropriate.
P	Buckland	2575	Yes	No
L	Busseil	Nsw2577	Yes	Will be great
J	Campbell	2577	Yes	The project is an excellent demonstration of celebrating women and the value of literacy, in a public place.
P	Campbell	2577	Yes	I support this as a very public way to celebrate the tireless work of women and the importance of literacy
A	Canby	2575	Yes	A great way to celebrate women and a local icon
S	Carter	2577	Yes	A very worthwhile monument.
M	Cawthorn	2576	Yes	This is a significant example piece of a history, and without question should be recognised and installed.
K	Clark	NSW 2025	Yes	No
M	Clohesy	2576	Yes	Good to see statues going up of famous Australian women! About time.
S	Clutton	2577	Yes	What a wonderful attribute to an important woman! This is very much appreciated by locals.
G	Coburn	2577	Yes	I think that it is a great thing for the community to commemorate such an incredible woman who is embedded in our history. I think it would be very sad loss for the community if it did not go ahead
M	Coburn	2577	Yes	Long overdue opportunity to celebrate and remember an extraordinary citizen of the district.
J	Commins	2577	Yes	I fully support the building of a statue honoring Charlotte Atkinson at Berrima Marketplace Park.
B	Cosyn	2576	Yes	The Wingecarribee Women Writers have undertaken a remarkable endeavour with The Charlotte Project, seeking to pay tribute to an exceptional pioneer. Moreover, it serves as a catalyst for initiating discussions on how a community can foster awareness for women regarding the realms of arts, literature, and history.
J	Coulthart	2579	Yes	Women are so poorly represented in statuary nationally so it's great to see an initiative seeking to recognise the hitherto unacknowledged contribution of women
J	Coward	2577	Yes	I fully support the erection of a statue of this important local woman, Charlotte Atkinson, in Berrima Marketplace Park.
V	Craig	5108	Yes	I lived in the Highlands for over 25 years & still have strong ties to the area & frequently return. Until recently I was not aware of Charlotte & Louisa Atkinson & there contribution to Australian literature. I believe this statue would promote The Highlands not only as a scenic place to visit but also as a cultural place to visit.
J	Crowley	2576	Yes	A great initiative to support two amazing writers from our communities
J	Crowley	2576	Yes	This is so important that we celebrate one of the Highlands first females, who became the first published woman. It is vital the statue is in a central position to be seen, not relegated to a secondary space
S	Cullen	6011	Yes	It is important to celebrate an important local historical figure
J	Cush	2575	Yes	No
R	Dale	2577	Yes	This author should be acknowledged by a suitable statue in the appropriate place of the Market Place in Berrima due to her significance in the history of Australian literature.
J	Dalitz	2575	Yes	This is a wonderful tribute and an opportunity to recognise local history for future generations
C	Dougherty	2575	Yes	A fitting tribute to such inspirational women.
K	Douglass		Yes	This is a wonderful community project. The statue of Charlotte in the park in Berrima will add to the history of the village and help redress the imbalance in public monuments to women - currently at about 4 percent.
C	Dwyer	2575	Yes	It is exciting to recognise prominent women in the Southern Highlands.
I	Dwyer	2575	Yes	No comment
G	Edwards	2575	Yes	Historically essential to recognise local female FORGOTTEN "heroes". She was a trail blazer and an inspiration to women in Australia. We NEED such recognition!!!!
E	Ellis	2576	Yes	She was an outstanding woman and we need to celebrate more women like her.
j	elvy	2577	Yes	A beautiful bronze of this illustrious author will embellish the historic village of Berrima and forever sustain the memory of her literary contribution
L	Emery	2579	Yes	This will be a welcome acknowledgement of an important historical figure, appropriately placed near the children's playground.
R	Farquhar	2576	Yes	I completely support the proposed works to build a statue at Berrima Marketplace Park to celebrate the life and contribution of the local Author, Charlotte Atkinson.
H	Farrimond	2577	Yes	A statue, of the author of the first children's book in NSW, who spent most of her life in the Berrima District, is most appropriate in the Berrima Marketplace. It will be a catalyst for discussions on colonial history.
M	Faulkner	2577	Yes	very supportive of the statue built in the Berrima Marketplace Park to celebrate the life and contribution of the local author Charlotte Atkinson
S	Faulkner	2577	Yes	I am very happy to support this historical information with a statue in the local park
M	Feely	2576	Yes	This area was the Booktown of Australia and was the reason my family and I visited and then moved here.
L	Ferreira	2575	Yes	Great contribution
B	Filmer	2577	Yes	I fully support the erection of a statue of Charlotte Atkinson in the Marketplace park in Berrim
V	Fishburn	2576	Yes	I fully support the erection of a statue of Charlotte Atkinson, a pioneer of Australian literature at Berrima, NSW.
K	Fitzgerald	2034	Yes	Yes please!! More statues of women!
J	Flanagan	2575	Yes	The area lacks statues which detracts from the ambiance of the area. Statues of women are sadly missing throughout Australia. I support this project because it will enhance our Shire
A	Forrest	2577	Yes	This a perfect statue of a very special wome
J	Gillespie	2576	Yes	It is so important to recognise the work of local women
P	Graeme-Evans	2575	Yes	The Southern Highlands of NSW has an increasingly important creative community. The Wingecarribee Women Writers - as new but fast-growing organisation - are to be congratulated for this landmark contribution to enhancing our community's creative reputation. And, at a time when it seems "there are more statues of dogs in Australia than women", how wonderful it is to recognise Charlotte Atkinson and her daughter as important pioneering women writers. This is a splendid and worthwhile initiative.
D	Graham	2577	Yes	Great idea
V	Grant	2048	Yes	Yes, I fully support the proposed works to build a statue of Charlotte Atkinson at Berrima Marketplace.
L	Grattan-Smith	2576	Yes	This will be absolutely fabulous for the area .. great to be able to talk about with tourists with the accompanying history of Charlotte .. a true inspiration to all !!
A	Gunning	2575	Yes	N/A
E	Halabi	2028	Yes	NA
J	Halabi	2575	Yes	This is an important community supported project to recognise the achievements of women. It's about time we had statues of women who have achieved great things personally and socially.
J	Harley-Frost	2577	Yes	The Atkinson's were and remain inspirational characters in the history of the Highlands and NSW. It would be timely to recognise and promote the women of the family
j	haseler reilly		Yes	this is Test form as many people reporting back that postcode is sensitive and can't send
S	Hayes	2576	Yes	Love the project
K	Hegeodus	2577	Yes	This monument will surely become a destination of not in the Highlands, with historical, cultural and educational significance. I give my 100% support to this project.
D	Holt	2575	Yes	What a great opportunity to recognise an important female leader from our community.
S	Holt	2576	Yes	So important to recognise local historical figures and especially wome
J	Hunter	2577	Yes	Charlotte Atkinson was an inspiring woman in colonial Australia. Her feistyness in the face of tragedy, the patriarchal colonial system is worth commemorating. The proposed location near the playground in Market place park is appropriate as it will educate children visiting the playground. Important as Charlotte had a serious belief in the importance of education.
N	Hunter	2594	Yes	As a regular tourist to Berrima and The Highlands I will visit Charlotte regularly. Her story is so inspiring and I adore the idea of sitting in the park reflecting on Charlotte's accomplishments. More than ever we need placed to visit to feel at peace.

AGENDA OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2023

First Initial	Surname	Post Code	Do you support the proposed works to build a statue at Berrima Marketplace Park to celebrate the life and contribution of the local Author, Charlotte Atkinson . :	Any further comments:
n	Hutagalung	2575	Yes	It's important to honour the powerful women that have paved the way for so many of us.
K	Ingham	2576	Yes	Great initiative
F	Janes	2576	Yes	I fully support this proposal of recognising this pioneering female author.
C	Janssen	2578	Yes	Charlotte Atkinson is a significant person in the history of not only The Highlands, but the world and it's incredible that it has taken this long to acknowledge her significance. I cannot comprehend why anyone would oppose recognition of an amazing contribution.
M	Johnson	2577	Yes	This will be a remarkable statue to have Australia's first female children's author celebrated in our beautiful Southern Highlands. Another draw card for tourists and a great inspiring statue and story for people of all ages. A huge effort already supported by many locals with the fundraising effort coming from grass roots fundraising
D	Jonas	2579	Yes	She was a remarkable woman and should receive more recognition . A statue would draw the public's attention to her.
J	Jose	2576	Yes	It's vital we recognise and honour the achievements of women to our cultural and community life .
D	King	2779	Yes	I have no issue with this statue. As a Gundungurra Traditional Custodian apparently Australians are looking at the history of this Country. From what I have been told this land wasn't created 235 years ago and people apparently lived here. It would be great to recognise the original original storytellers that were here for 60,000 years. Just a thought.
S	Koumi	2575	Yes	NA
R	Lambert	2540	Yes	Important female author that needs to be honoured
S	Lee	2204	Yes	Absolutely yes! we should erect this statue to honor Charlotte Atkinson
L	Lees	2665	Yes	How awesome that this can lead to others being interested in learning about this woman's life.
L	Lema	2575	Yes	Thank you
D	Leonard	2576	Yes	Recognising Australian women writers is very important.
J	Lynch	2204	Yes	It is so beautiful and special. It will really add to the character and meaning of its place. Yes yes yes!!!
p	m grigg AM	2900	Yes	This is along needed recognition of the literary women associated with the Southern Highlands
A	Mackevicius	2577	Yes	A wonderful and very important initiative. History supports a sense of community & place. It will inspire creative children. History is important & we need to see more women represented
J	Maguire	2577	Yes	Good to support local history
K	Mansfield	5118	Yes	I think it's a wonderful thing to do, both for the present and future generations
K	McKay	2577	Yes	We need to celebrate women
P	McLean		Yes	I fully support the erection of a monument to Charlotte Atkinson in Berrima Marketplace Park
T	McLean		Yes	A great campaign educating a piece of local historical significance and a great location for it.
B	Meagher	2577	Yes	Strongly support the erection of statue as described in the market place . Would be alongside lots that were granted to James Atkinson (charlotte's father) by governor Burke
F	Meagher	2577	Yes	I fully support the installation of the Charlotte statue in the Berrima Marjet place park
P	Middleton	2579	Yes	Long over due.
d	morgan	2577	Yes	I believe this important statue of Charlotte Atkinson SHOULD have pride of place in Berrima Marketplace. Her memory and contribution to local history should be recognised story of
d	morgan	2577	Yes	I believe the statue of Charlotte Atkinson's memorial statue should be placed in Berrima Marketplace Park where her life and contribution can be celebrated.
D	Muddell	2577	Yes	It is important for the community, especially the women, to celebrate the life and contribution of Charlotte Atkinson. It's a huge YES from me.
K	Murray	2576	Yes	Brilliant idea for the historically challenged Southern Highlands
B	Murrell	2095	Yes	Charlotte Atkinson was an outstanding colonial woman and a pioneer in the fight for women's legal rights. Her statue will be a wonderful acknowledgement of an extraordinary local woman.
A	Newbrun	2071	Yes	It is important to recognise women's contributions to the fabric of our society.
G	Nordfeldt	2030	Yes	There are so few statues of prominent women (we have more statues of animals in this country!) a celebration of a remarkable local woman is a wonderful thing
J	O'Connell	2576	Yes	Great idea !
R	Oakes-Ash	2575	Yes	n/a
V	O'Neill	2577	Yes	Good initiative on recognition of female authors.
G	Osgerby	2519	Yes	Would love to see more women statues in the southern highlands
P	Palmer	2577	Yes	this will be a significant recognition of this author's work
P	Peacock	2577	Yes	This is a fantastic initiative, funded by volunteers and donations, it should go ahead as planned. Hoping Council will make this happen urgently.
J	Peters	3133	Yes	I may live in another state but there are not enough statues of women around anyway, and this lady thoroughly deserves commemoration.
J	Pharey	2577	Yes	A worthy project
S	Phillips	2575	Yes	The search for Charlotte as a local woman has had many heart-wrenching, perplexing and thrilling moments. It is wonderful to finally bring this woman of note out of the realm of family stories and past history and share her extraordinary life in the form of this perpetual statue.
D	Poiglaise	2574	Yes	Should be more statues of women
L	Poiglaise	2574	Yes	Great idea
E	Ray	2576	Yes	no
H	Reedie	2575	Yes	It's very important to recognise local contributors to society. We're so fortunate to have Charlotte's story being told. How many of us have known of her? Only if you're fortunate to have a law degree will you have heard of Charlotte in your first year. Truly an amazing woman. I have lived here for nearly 30years and have been so excited to share Charlotte's adventures, everyone is so interested, including my 6yr old granddaughter. How wonderful to have another tourist reason to visit our great Highlands. The women have done an amazing job getting the project ready for completion, council can thank everyone involved, including all the dontators, who have trusted Charlotte be put in the park at Berrima. This is something that council should get involved in making it happen smoothly out of respect for Charlotte. I hope everyone in council know of her and her significance. I truly believe it's the right choice for Charlotte to be in the Park at Berrima.
H	Reilly	2576	Yes	This project would bring invaluable artistic, cultural and historical merit to the area.
M	Reilly	2577	Yes	I believe this will be an appropriate addition to the Marketplace Park
P	Roach	2576	Yes	No comments
L	Rodgers	2577	Yes	a small statue of a colonial woman, childrens author, woman rights activist is a wonderful thing to have in the colonial village of Berrima
M	Sandry	2575	Yes	Would brie great
N	Sattler		Yes	Charlotte Atkinson was a remarkable figure in the early days of Berrima. She suffered adversity but became Australia's first female author, writing books to her children. Julie Haseler Reilly is an award-winning sculptor who has chosen the Highlands as her home. Children love to play in the park at Berrima and I believe the statue would be of great value to the district.
N	Sattler	2575	Yes	This would be a fitting memorial to one of Berrima's first settlers, a woman who lived at Oldbury, widowed with small children and a farm to run, but when she lost everything, became Australia's first female author. The sculptor, Julie Haseler-Reilly is a well-respected artist who now lives in the Southern Highlands and has donated her fine work to the project.
T	Sattler		Yes	A worthy celebration of an important local identity and a pioneering figure in Australian literature.
R	Seaward	2287	Yes	Charlotte Atkinson was a strong intelligent woman, a pioneer of the Berrimah district and a woman who overcame the hardships and adversity of early colonial life. She is believed to be the author of the first children's book in the colony of NSW, A Mother's offering to her children. 1841. For these reasons, I strongly supportthe proposal
A	Sheehan	2576	Yes	Can we have more statues of women please
M	Shields	2830	Yes	Tremendous to witness the acknowledgement of women authors!
K	Shueld	7004	Yes	It contributes to a better understanding lof our history.
C	Silm	2577	Yes	I support female writers past and present.
P	Simons	2022	Yes	Ss
E	Smith	2577	Yes	I wholeheartedly support the public recognition of Charlotte Atkinson and her significant contribution to Australian literature. The proposed site (Berrima Marketplace) is an ideal location where proud locals and visitors can admire and engage with this important artwork. The Charlotte statue will deepen Berrima's attraction as an historic village. Our children need to see more examples of revered Australian women.
K	SMITH	2576	Yes	it will be a great asset to Berrima to honour a woman who lived in the area and had great courage

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First Initial	Surname	Post Code	Do you support the proposed works to build a statue at Berrima Marketplace Park to celebrate the life and contribution of the local Author, Charlotte Atkinson. :	Any further comments:
N	Smith	2575	Yes	This is a wonderful initiative.
T	Smith	2576	Yes	This is Tourist village and we this is in keeping with the area and the feel of the village
C	Solomon	2575	Yes	I wholeheartedly support this beautiful statue of an amazing woman to be erected in Berrima.
G	Solomon	2575	Yes	Why stuff around. Let's complete this magnificent project
A	Springett	2576	Yes	I think a statue of Charlotte Atkinson within Berrima Marketplace Park would be a wonderful way to commemorate a remarkable woman. It would also be a significant nod to our rich Southern Highlands heritage. High
J	Stanham	2021	Yes	Charlotte was tutor to my Great great grand father and siblings and I think it is a great idea
A	Stokeld		Yes	Charlotte Atkinson is a trailblazer in the advocacy for women's legal rights and deserves recognition.
J	Strachan	2576	Yes	I fully support the building of a statue of Charlotte Atkinson in Berrima Marketplace Park
C	Sykes	2508	Yes	I fully support a statue of Charlotte Atkinson to be erected in Berrima Marketplace Park.
A	Testaz	2575	Yes	An important woman in society that should be recognised and honoured.
D	Thomas	2577	Yes	I think this will enhance the historic significance of Berrima with yet another story of a local woman who shaped our colonial past.
H	Thomson	2099	Yes	I don't live in Berrima now but grew up in the area
W	Thorp	2042	Yes	It's a great start in recognising more pioneering women.
H	Tweedie	2576	Yes	Charlotte Atkinson was a significant contributor to literature and very few people are aware of her contributions, at a time when women were largely overlooked.
M	Walker	2576	Yes	I commend this project to recognise a significant writer and Southern Highlands resident
M	Waters	2577	Yes	Nothing to add
Z	Waters	2577	Yes	This is a very important project for the region and must go ahead.
L	Watson	2577	Yes	It is a visualisation of a colonial women in a colonial village.
C	Webb	2577	Yes	This will be a great addition to the Berrima landscape and add significantly the interpretation and history of women in colonial Australia let alone the individual story of Charlotte Atkinson. Our first Children's author.
J	White	2576	Yes	Nothing further
B	Williams	2576	Yes	A piece of heritage is important
L	Williams	2575	Yes	There should be more statues of women in Australia
A	Williamson	2579	Yes	The proposed recognition of Charlotte Atkinson's life, skills and positive contribution to society in Berrima, adjacent to her home, Oldbury Farm, is highly desirable as 1) it is long overdue recognition of a truly impressive 19th Century woman, 2) it encourages aspirations in women of the 21st century, and 3) it will be a wonderful visitor draw card for Berrima.
D	Willisms	2576	Yes	It represents an important part of the areas history
G	WILSON	2500	Yes	It is important that the contribution women have made to our history be finally acknowledged and celebrated. I fully support a statue of Charlotte Atkinson to be erected in Berrima Marketplace Park. Women and their stories are significantly underrepresented in public place naming and commemorations world wide. It's estimated that just 3% of all statues are of women and less honouring women of history (way to many mermaids, goddesses and fairies) Women as significant as Charlotte should be known and celebrated and a statue in a prominent location is an important way to achieve this as well as contributing to addressing the commemoration gap and contributing to gender equality. This statue will be a source of pride for the community Charlotte was part of
L	Wool	2577	Yes	This statue would be a positive addition to our area.
J	Zarth	2576	Yes	NA
	No Name Provided		Yes	What a great tourist attraction for Berrima
	No Name Provided		Yes	The statue of Charlotte Atkinson will be a wonderful addition to the history of Berrima and a statue of an Australian woman will contribute to redressing the imbalance of monuments which commemorate women which stands at about 4 percent. Wholly support this project.
	No Name Provided		Yes	I believe this is an important monument to represent a female author that has had such an impact on Australian literature.
	No Name Provided		Yes	I think this is a wonderful element to add to the area. It would give a beautiful focus to this park which we visit all the time. Our children would love to interact with the statue and it's perfect being near the playground. It's also nice having tribute paid to a female as these statues are not a prominent.
	No Name Provided		Yes	It will be wonderful to see a monument to a woman of such significance to the area - we need more sculptures recognising women!
	No Name Provided		Yes	I fully support the proposal to celebrate a local female author. It's a no-brainer for tourism and chance to promote community achievements. I look forward to seeing the statue in all of its glory!
	No Name Provided		Yes	It would be a great addition to commemorate such a significant, female and local writer.
	No Name Provided		Yes	The statue will be an adornment to Berrima and a reminder of its Georgian heritage
	No Name Provided		Yes	Such a brilliant & important project!
	No Name Provided		Yes	It's a wonderful community supported project
	No Name Provided		Yes	Berrima marketplace will benefit from the presence of a sculpture of Charlotte Atkinson, an historical figure in the Berrima District.
	No Name Provided		Yes	This monument recognising Charlotte Atkinson's remarkable life as our first children's book author, a trailblazer in women's education and a pioneer in the fight for women's legal rights, still studied in law schools today is an important historical story and one that is important to the Highlands community and all visitors to Berrima Market Place. The monument is beautiful, not intrusive and not elevated. It has been designed so that children in particular can learn Charlotte's story.
	No Name Provided		Yes	This statue would be a beautiful addition to the park and recognition of a colonial woman in the colonial village of Berrima
	No Name Provided		Yes	A wonderful recognition of a colonial women. The statue is tasteful, not effusively large and will suit the context of the village. The decision to commission the statement was well communicated and support by the village.
	No Name Provided		Yes	I live at 24 Jellere Street Berrima, and the statue site is across the road where the park is in constant use by families and children. The statue will add to the experience of park users both locals and visitors to Berrima while telling a story of early colonial Australia seldom heard.
	No Name Provided		Yes	Very worthy project

**AGENDA OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2023**

From: "Julian Brophy" [REDACTED]
Sent: Tue, 31 Oct 2023 12:50:40 +1100
To: "Shaun Robinson" <Shaun.Robinson@wsc.nsw.gov.au>; "Wingecarribee Shire Council" <mail@wsc.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: "Administrator Office" <AdministratorOffice@wsc.nsw.gov.au>; "Lisa Miscamble" <Lisa.Miscamble@wsc.nsw.gov.au>; "Sarah Farnese" <Sarah.Farnese@wsc.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Attention Manager Assets - Charlotte Project
Attachments: Submission Charlotte statute project - 31102023.pdf
Categories: Melanie

Dear Shaun,

Please find the attached submission in respect of the above.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Regards,

Julian Brophy.

[REDACTED]

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**AGENDA OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2023**



Mr Shaun Robinson,
Manager Assets,
Wingecarribee Shire Council,
68 Elizabeth Street,
Moss Vale NSW 2577
Via email – Shaun.Robinson@wsc.nsw.gov.au

31 October 2023

Dear Mr Robinson,

Re: Charlotte Project.

I write to object to the proposed monument on a number of grounds and to question the process which has been undertaken to date.

1 – Inappropriateness

There is currently no recognition of First Nations People in the area and specifically in Berrima, despite 60,000 plus years of unbroken connection to the land.

That Wingecarribee Shire Council is proposing another commemoration of colonial history with its inherent privilege, ahead of acknowledging the continuous cultural heritage of the first inhabitants of this land including their tens of thousands of years of storytelling traditions, is frankly deeply concerning in 2023.

Have the region's First Nations People been consulted as to this statute and its appropriateness or otherwise?

Further, can Council please detail how it has undertaken considerations of the impact of the perpetuation of white colonial privilege through such projects on publicly owned council property, what policy framework underpins this approach and what it is doing to equal the imbalance when it comes to recognition of First Nations People in Berrima and the Shire?

I refer Council to the City of Sydney which is undertaking a significant review of statuary erected on the basis of celebration of colonial privilege, to determine its suitability in respect of First Nation's history.

2 – Impact on local heritage item and state heritage items

I have written previously to Council about the profound impact that ad hoc proposals such as this planned statue – as well as other overdevelopment and inappropriate development – is having on the heritage fabric of Market Place.

Market Place Berrima, including the immediate surrounding street curtilages with eleven (11) NSW State Heritage listed items facing the park, is one of the most significant heritage

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precincts in NSW. It is a largely undeveloped centre of a regional town which reflects early colonial settlement which is rare at a state and national level.

Market Place is first and foremost, a significant Georgian design feature of perhaps the last remaining, intact Georgian village on the Australian mainland. It is not a park or recreation ground in the traditional sense – rather the town centre of the village as it was designed in 1831 and which has survived to today mostly intact.

Critically, Market Place's heritage significance is intrinsically connected to the heritage fabric of the surrounding streetscape along its four street boundaries, Jellore, Bryan and Argyle Streets as well as Market Place. Of particular note is the interconnectedness of Market Place with the unformed street curtilages of Jellore, Bryan and Argyle Streets with their unsealed road edges, lack of formed guttering and with an overall sensibility of country lanes.

This is enhanced by the no less than 11 NSW State Heritage Listed items which surround Market Place on three streets and all of which face into Market Place and at various points, can be viewed across it. These eleven heritage items account for 68.75% or more than two thirds of all the NSW State Heritage listed items in Berrima. The inventory of NSW State Heritage listed items can be seen in the extract from NSW Heritage's [online database and search](#) function.

Statuary in Market Place was previously rejected by the community and Council during a recent master planning process undertaken ahead of the expansion of the children's play area. This process saw draft plans shared with the community and feedback sought on them, the outcome of which was a resounding 'No' to the insertion of statuary in Market Place. A position I understand was also supported at the time by the Berrima Residents Association.

Much of the objection to the placement of statuary at that time was based on the impact that it would have on Market Place as a heritage item, as well as being completely contrary to the Berrima Village DCP which states clearly:

(a) New recreation and community facilities shall only be permitted where they are consistent with a Conservation Management Plan that has been endorsed by the NSW Heritage Branch.

This proposal is not just for a statue, but I understand a large sandstone plinth as well as at least 5 other sandstone plinths surrounding the statue with additional landscaping.

This will profoundly impact the simple Georgian design of Market Place and irreversibly impact the location's heritage fabric.

Market Place has a long tradition – starting with the 1890 planting of the Henry Parkes Oak and the subsequent 1897 planting of the trees to mark the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, as well as many others - of commemorating in a subdued and dignified manner events and people through planting of trees with appropriately small plaques.

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This has been an approach which has respected the heritage of Market Place as well as its preserving its Georgian design and integrity.

The current proposal for a statue is entirely contrary to this approach that has worked for the best part of two centuries, and if it proceeded it would establish a regrettable precedent in this very important part of Berrima.

3 - Lack of proper process

The Council has rushed this proposal without proper community consultation, completely at odds with the master planning of Market Place only a few years ago which ironically saw proposals for similar statuary rejected by both Council and the Community.

Residents have been provided with less than 5 days to respond to a letter which is lacking in any detail, imagery of the proposed statute and additional landscaping including multiple sandstone plinths, or a map showing the exact location.

Nor has any heritage impact statement been provided to residents to review.

Why has this proposal been pushed through with unseemly haste, in a process which is completely at odds with that required under the Local Environment Plan and its mandatory provisions?

As Market Place is an item of local heritage, Wingecarribee Shire Council is required, legislatively, to follow the provisions of the LEP which are mandatory and not discretionary.

Clause 5.10, paragraph 2 (a) of the of the LEP states that development consent is required for:

(a) demolishing or moving any of the following or altering the exterior of any of the following (including, in the case of a building, making changes to its detail, fabric, finish or appearance)

Given there is not a duly democratically elected Council in place in Wingecarribee Shire, the only appropriate decision is for Council to withdraw this application and properly lodge a development application with all attendant opportunities for proper community consultation to take place, as well as liaison with state agencies including NSW Heritage.

I reiterate my complete opposition to this proposal.

Yours' sincerely,

Julian Brophy.

**AGENDA OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2023**

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tue, 31 Oct 2023 12:47:13 +1100
To: "Wingecarribee Shire Council" <mail@wsc.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: "Lisa Miscamble" <Lisa.Miscamble@wsc.nsw.gov.au>; "Sarah Farnese" <Sarah.Farnese@wsc.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Attn: Manager Assets - Charlotte Project
Categories: Melanie

Dear Shaun Robinson - Manager Assets

Regarding 'Notification of Application for Public Monument' - 'Charlotte Project'

Firstly I'd like to express my disappointment at Council's insincere and inadequate attempt at community consultation on this significant development proposal.

Council's notification letter was dated October 25 and was received October 26 with responses to be returned by October 31. This only gives residents three working days and a total of five days in which to respond. Best practice with any genuine community consultation is two full weeks minimum. It is unclear why Council deliberately chose such a short timeline and why it is rushing this proposal given it is not observing a proper development application process.

Council's notification letter is deficient in a number of details including:

- The size of the sandstone block plinth on which the statue will be placed. In fact no imagery, diagrams or plans of the proposed statue and landscaping has been provided.
- The size and nature of any additional landscaping (including additional sandstone blocks which I understand to be five (5) in number).
- The specific location of the proposed statue's location in Market Place - no map has been provided to residents to review.
- The website linked on the notification (https://www.wwomen_writers.org/) also fails to provide any of these crucial details.
- There is no reference to any advice Council may have sought from its own Heritage advisor on the proposal or from NSW Heritage, given that all of Berrima is a heritage conservation area and Market Place itself is a local heritage item surrounded by 11 NSW State Heritage listed items. Market Place provides a crucial role in maintaining heritage view corridors across the park to and from these important buildings.
- There is no documentation provided regarding what relevance the subject of the statue has specifically with Berrima village.

I expect these details should have been provided so that residents may provide responses once we have been adequately informed.

Even in this state of information deficit I have a number of serious concerns regarding the proposed statue and indeed any other major development in Berrima's Market Place.

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Berrima Market Place is one the oldest and most significant Heritage items in the district and indeed the country as it forms the central focus of the highest concentration of NSW State Heritage items in Berrima and indeed Wingecarribee Shire.

Berrima village is significant as the only intact Georgian village surviving on mainland Australia.

The heritage values of these buildings lies not just in their own built material but in the landscape and environment in which they sit. Market Place is crucial to this heritage significance as it still retains its unadorned, simple rural character with unmade edges, rough grass and towering trees.

The addition of a bronze statue is totally out of step with this unadorned rural character and is an insult to the almost two hundred years of history during which the erection of any statues in Market Place have been resisted.

Given the impact this statue will undoubtedly have on the heritage values of the many surrounding NSW state heritage listed buildings it would be unconscionable for Council to proceed without adequate consultation from the community and without seeking detailed feedback from NSW State Heritage which would be made available in a proper development process.

Council is in the process of proposing to add hundreds of local properties to the local heritage register. What is the point of any of these listings if council ignores its own DCP and LEP for heritage listed Berrima village by allowing a new development within Market Place without a proper development application process?

As there is a current nomination for Berrima village as a whole to be included on the NSW State Heritage register, as well as a separate nomination for Berima's Market Place and street curtilages along Jellore, Bryan & Argyle Streets as well as Market Place it would be inappropriate for Council to approve such a significant development in the most important heritage item within the village.

I also have serious concerns regarding the appropriateness of the subject of the proposed statue. What message is Wingecarribee sending by erecting a statue to white colonial privilege when there is a profound lack of any monument or interpretive walks in Berrima and the wider district to tell the history of our Gundungurra and other First Nations People. The erection of a statue celebrating a privileged white colonialist as one of our first storytellers blatantly ignores our true history of 60000 plus years of a culture built on storytelling. It is disappointing that in 2023 we are perpetuating commemoration of one aspect of our history at the expense of another. It is a sad fact that much of our colonial history was built on the trauma of First Nations People yet this has yet to be recognised in Wingecarribee Shire.

Has Council considered any other locations for the statue? If the concern is that the subject of the statue lies in an unmarked grave then surely that gravesite would be a more appropriate location for any statue as it was the subjects chosen resting place in the village in which she actually lived.

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Finally, I'd like to point out that Wingecarribee council is currently under administration and as residents we have no democratically elected representatives to make decisions that affect us all and in this case, how we as a community and our shared history are authentically and truthfully represented.

It would be most inappropriate for a council in this current state to authorise such a significant change to a heritage item without the scrutiny and fairness that an elected council can provide.

Sincerely,
David Prior

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Submission on Charlotte Atkinson statue. – personally delivered to Council

30/10/2023

ATTN: Shaun Robinson ,Manager Assets – Charlotte Project

I really like the proposal to have a statue of Charlotte Atkinson in the park at Berrima. It is a great idea. It will be another great heritage item for Berrima, as she is an important part of the Heritage of the village – as it is shown in the museum. And having the monument near the playground and in that corner of the park is perfect, as children , and schoolchildren coming to the park, can be shown it and told about the history and also it goes with the Museum display. And it's right near the place the Atkinsons had in Bryan Street. I am a pensioner and couldn't afford to make a donation for the statue but lots of locals have donated, and it has very big local support. The Council should support it and help pay for it too. I live *across the road from where it is planned, and I support it.*
I have also submitted this opinion through the email address of my neighbour and power of attorney as I don't have an email address or access to the website.

Maureen Besestri, [REDACTED]



7 MEETING CLOSURE